

**ENFORCEMENT OF MUNICIPAL RULES, ORDINANCES, OR  
POLICE REGULATIONS PROHIBITING ILLEGAL DUMPING;  
INCREASING A PENALTY**

**CHAPTER 680**

H.B. No. 274

**AN ACT**

**relating to the enforcement of municipal rules, ordinances, or police regulations  
prohibiting illegal dumping; increasing a penalty.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 54.001(b), Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A fine or penalty for the violation of a rule, ordinance, or police regulation may not exceed \$500 *except that*:

(1) ~~[-However,]~~ a fine or penalty for the violation of a rule, ordinance, or police regulation that governs fire safety, zoning, or public health and sanitation, *other than the* ~~[including]~~ dumping of refuse, may not exceed \$2,000; *and*

(2) *a fine or penalty for the violation of a rule, ordinance, or police regulation that governs the dumping of refuse may not exceed \$4,000.*

SECTION 2. Section 29.003(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A municipal court, including a municipal court of record, shall have exclusive original jurisdiction within the municipality's territorial limits and property owned by the municipality located in the municipality's extraterritorial jurisdiction in all criminal cases that:

(1) arise under:

(A) the ordinances of the municipality; or

(B) a resolution, rule, or order of a joint board operating an airport under Section 22.074, Transportation Code; and

(2) are punishable by a fine not to exceed:

(A) \$2,000 in all cases arising under municipal ordinances or resolutions, rules, or orders of a joint board that govern fire safety, zoning, or public health and sanitation, *other than the* ~~[including]~~ dumping of refuse; ~~[or]~~

(B) *\$4,000 in cases arising under municipal ordinances that govern the dumping of refuse; or*

(C) ~~[(B)]~~ \$500 in all other cases arising under a municipal ordinance or a resolution, rule, or order of a joint board.

SECTION 3. Article 4.14(a), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(a) A municipal court, including a municipal court of record, shall have exclusive original jurisdiction within the territorial limits of the municipality in all criminal cases that:

(1) arise under the ordinances of the municipality; and

(2) are punishable by a fine not to exceed:

(A) \$2,000 in all cases arising under municipal ordinances that govern fire safety, zoning, or public health and sanitation, *other than the* ~~[including]~~ dumping of refuse; ~~[or]~~

(B) *\$4,000 in cases arising under municipal ordinances that govern the dumping of refuse; or*

(C) ~~[(B)]~~ \$500 in all other cases arising under a municipal ordinance.

SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only to an offense commit-

ted on or after the effective date of this Act. An offense committed before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect when the offense was committed, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose. For purposes of this section, an offense was committed before the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense was committed before that date.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on May 4, 2015: Yeas 130, Nays 9, 3 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 25, 2015: Yeas 24, Nays 7.

Approved June 17, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

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**REQUIREMENT THAT CERTAIN GOVERNMENTAL BODIES  
MAKE AUDIO AND VIDEO RECORDINGS OF OPEN  
MEETINGS AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET**

**CHAPTER 681**

H.B. No. 283

**AN ACT**

**relating to the requirement that certain governmental bodies make audio and video recordings of open meetings available on the Internet.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

SECTION 1. Section 551.128, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsections (b-1), (b-2), (b-3), (b-4), (b-5), and (b-6) to read as follows:

(b) *Except as provided by Subsection (b-1) and subject [Subject] to the requirements of this section, a governmental body may broadcast an open meeting over the Internet.*

(b-1) *A transit authority or department subject to Chapter 451, 452, 453, or 460, Transportation Code, an elected school district board of trustees for a school district that has a student enrollment of 10,000 or more, an elected governing body of a home-rule municipality that has a population of 50,000 or more, or a county commissioners court for a county that has a population of 125,000 or more shall:*

(1) *make a video and audio recording of reasonable quality of each regularly scheduled open meeting that is not a work session or a special called meeting; and*

(2) *make available an archived copy of the video and audio recording of each meeting described by Subdivision (1) on the Internet.*

(b-2) *A governmental body described by Subsection (b-1) may make available the archived recording of a meeting required by Subsection (b-1) on an existing Internet site, including a publicly accessible video-sharing or social networking site. The governmental body is not required to establish a separate Internet site and provide access to archived recordings of meetings from that site.*

(b-3) *A governmental body described by Subsection (b-1) that maintains an Internet site shall make available on that site, in a conspicuous manner:*

(1) *the archived recording of each meeting to which Subsection (b-1) applies; or*

(2) *an accessible link to the archived recording of each such meeting.*

(b-4) *A governmental body described by Subsection (b-1) shall:*

(1) *make the archived recording of each meeting to which Subsection (b-1) applies available on the Internet not later than seven days after the date the recording was made; and*

(2) *maintain the archived recording on the Internet for not less than two years after the date the recording was first made available.*